In the claims:

The claims in the application are indicated below:

1. (Currently amended) A scalable agent service scheduling method that supports plural computer software agents to perform tasks for plural client computation devices, the method comprising:

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obtaining an isochronal table of plural service agent activation times over a recurring time period at which periodic service agent tasks can be activated, the isochronal table including a predefined time interval between each of the successive activation times;

characterizing each periodic service agent task as including an initial task and one or more successive tasks to be activated periodically, the initial task having an initial event time:

applying the initial event time of the initial task of each periodic service agent task to a corresponding activation time in the isochronal table;

determining a skipping interval representing a number of activation times in the isochronal table corresponding to the period at which each of the one or more successive tasks of a periodic service agent task are to be activated periodically;

storing at activation times determined by the skipping interval the one or more successive tasks of each periodic task to be activated periodically; and

passing as one or more batches the tasks for each activation time for processing by one or more computer software event agents when the activation time occurs.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising queuing independently from the isochronal table the tasks that are passed as a batch for each activation time for processing.
- (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing selected non-periodic spontaneous service agent tasks to plural client computation devices at respective ones of the activation times.
- 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 in which the selected nonperiodic spontaneous service agent tasks correspond to spontaneous events that are suitable for receiving delayed processing according to a predefined rule and are

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distinguished from spontaneous tasks that require immediate processing according to the predefined rule.

- 5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising queuing independently from the isochronal table the selected non-periodic spontaneous <u>service</u> <u>agent</u> tasks that are performed for the plural client computation devices at the respective ones of the activation times.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing pre-scheduled non-periodic appointment tasks to plural client computation devices at respective ones of the activation times.
- 7. (Currently amended) The method of claim6 claim6 further comprising queuing independently from the isochronal table the pre-scheduled non-periodic appointment tasks that are performed for the plural client computation devices at the respective ones of the activation times.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the recurring time period of the isochronal table is one hour.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the recurring time period of the isochronal table is 24 hours.
- 10. (Currently amended) In a computer readable medium, scalable agent task scheduling software that supports plural computer software agents for performing tasks for plural client computation devices, comprising:

software for obtaining an isochronal table of plural activation times over a recurring time period at which periodic <u>service agent</u> tasks can be activated, the isochronal table including a predefined time interval between each of the successive activation times;

software for characterizing each periodic <u>service agent</u> task as including an initial task and one or more successive tasks to be activated periodically, the initial task having an initial event time;

software for applying the initial event time of the initial task of each periodic task to a corresponding activation time in the isochronal table;

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software for determining a skipping interval representing a number of activation times in the isochronal table corresponding to the period at which each of the one or more successive tasks of a periodic <u>service agent</u> task are to be activated periodically;

software for storing at activation times determined by the skipping interval the one or more successive tasks of each periodic <u>service agent</u> task to be activated periodically; and

software for passing as one or more batches tasks for each activation time for processing by one or more computer software event agents when the activation time occurs.

- 11. (Original) The medium of claim 10 further comprising software for queuing independently from the isochronal table the tasks that are passed as a batch for each activation time for processing.
- 12. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 10 further comprising software for performing selected non-periodic spontaneous <u>service agent</u> tasks for plural client computation devices at respective ones of the activation times.
- 13. (Original) The medium of claim 10 further comprising software for performing pre-scheduled non-periodic appointment tasks for plural client computation devices at respective ones of the activation times.
- 14. (Original) The medium of claim 10 in which the recurring time period of the isochronal table is one hour.
- 15. (Original) The medium of claim 10 in which the recurring time period of the isochronal table is 24 hours.
- 16. (Currently amended) A scalable agent service scheduling system that supports plural computer software service agents for providing services to plural client computation devices, the comprising:

an isochronal scheduler of future event services, the isochronal scheduler including an isochronal table of plural activation times at which service <u>agent</u> events can be activated, the isochronal table including a predefined time interval between each of the successive activation times, the isochronal scheduler passing as a batch all service <u>agent</u> events for each activation time to a service <u>agent</u> event queue; and

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a dispatcher of current service <u>agent</u> events for retrieving them from the service <u>agent</u> event queue and acquiring and launching service agents to service the service events.

- 17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16 in which the isochronal scheduler passes service <u>agent</u> events to the service event queue asynchronously with the dispatcher retrieving the service events from the service event queue.
- 18. (Original) The system of claim 16 in which the future event services include periodic services and the system further comprises a computer readable medium having stored thereon:

software for characterizing each periodic service <u>agent</u> as including an initial service event and one or more successive service events to be activated periodically, the initial service event having an initial event time;

software for applying the initial event time of the initial service event of each periodic service agent to a corresponding activation time in the isochronal table;

software for determining a skipping interval representing a number of activation times in the isochronal table corresponding to the period at which each of the one or more successive service events of a periodic service <u>agent</u> are to be activated periodically; and

software for storing at activation times determined by the skipping interval the one or more successive service events of each periodic service agent to be activated periodically.

- 19. (Original) The system of claim 18 further comprising software for providing selected non-periodic spontaneous services to plural client computation devices at respective ones of the activation times.
- 20. (Original) The system of claim 19 in which the selected non-periodic spontaneous services correspond to spontaneous events that are suitable for receiving delayed processing according to a predefined rule and are distinguished from spontaneous events that require immediate processing according to the predefined rule.
- 21. (Original) The system of claim 18 further comprising software for providing pre-scheduled non-periodic appointment services to plural client computation devices at respective ones of the activation times.